

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

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RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY MATERIAL MAILED

On January 2, samples of the Federal Council of Churches' Race Relations Sunday materials were mailed to 3,500 pastors and 6,500 Sunday school superintendents, together with blanks for ordering supplies for church and Sunday school use directly from the Federal Council offices at 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

For 25 consecutive years the churches of the country have observed the second Sunday in February (the Sunday nearest Lincoln's Birthday) as Race Relations Sunday. The materials prepared for use this year stress the silver anniversary of the observance, and include the annual Message on race relations, a general worship program, programs for use in the Sunday school, youth groups, and women's groups, and a leaflet of information for speakers. The price of each leaflet is \$1.25 per hundred. Packets including all the leaflets listed above can be had at a cost of \$5 per hundred. Order direct from the Federal Council.

The National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc., will observe "American Brotherhood Week," February 16-23. Materials for this observance can be secured from the national headquarters, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y., or from any of the 45 regional offices.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CHURCH AND ECONOMIC LIFE

A National Conference on the Church and Economic Life, called under the auspices of the Federal Council of Churches, will be held at Hotel William Penn, Pittsburgh, Pa., February 18-20. The conference, to be made up principally of laymen — businessmen, labor leaders, farmers, professional people — and only a minority of ministers and denominational executives, will discuss the responsibility of the church in the field of economic life, with especial reference to the present industrial strife, long-range problems of moral responsibility in the economic sphere, Christian norms of responsibility in economic matters, and the role of the church in relation to economics. Consideration will also be given to the program which the church should undertake in this field. It is hoped that from this conference a program of the church and economic life will be developed.

The Disciples of Christ have been allotted 20 delegates to the conference, to be appointed by the president of the International Convention.

PEACE FELLOWSHIP AIDS KAGAWA

Some months ago the Disciples Peace Fellowship raised a fund of \$508.40 for the Kagawa Thirtieth Anniversary Fund, to be used by the great Japanese Christian for rehabilitation of his work in Japan. Due however to depreciation of the Japanese currency which would have caused an 85 per cent loss to the fund through exchange, the money was not sent as originally planned. On December 22, a check for the entire amount was forwarded to Dr. J. Henry Carpenter, secretary of the Kagawa Thirtieth Anniversary Fund, Cadman Memorial Center, Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn 1, N. Y., with instructions that it be used to purchase food, clothing, medicines, hospital supplies, or any other commodities needed by Dr. Kagawa in his work, and that same be sent to him with notification that it was a contribution of the Disciples Peace Fellowship. Word has also been received that parcel post packages can now be sent to Dr. Kagawa at regular parcel post rates. Shipments should be addressed to "Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, 603 Nichome, Kami Kizizawa, Setagaya ku, Honshu Island, Tokyo, Japan," and should be marked "This is a Gift — No Duty."

NEW CONSCRIPTION BATTLE LOOMS

Following the release to the press on October 2 of the War Department's intention to urge enactment of a permanent conscription law in the forthcoming Congress, Army and Administration spokesmen have kept the issue continually before the public. The plan calls for the minimum of a full year of compulsory training for all American boys, and up to four years or more for some. All are to have the first six months in barrack training, after which several alternatives are offered for those who desire and are able to satisfy the requirements of one of the alternatives in lieu of an additional six months in barrack training.

Among the alternatives offered are four years in R.O.T.C., enlistment in the Regular Army, enlistment and regular training in the National Guard. No exemptions are provided.

The New York Times commented that "The aim of the War Department in releasing the plan now was to endeavor to win public support for it by the time the Eightieth Congress convenes in January." Secretary Patterson states that the cost of this program will be two billion dollars per year. Estimates from other sources run from three to four millions annually.

The plan calls for the training of 1,000,000 boys every year, all of whom will go into active service or some type of reserves. The Associated Press released November 17 a statement attributed to the War Department which gave as one reason for this plan "the official contention" that "neither the National Guard nor the organized reserves can hope to muster a projected total of more than 3,500,000 men." General Jacob L. Devers, Commanding General of the Army Ground Forces, however, told the Pennsylvania Education Congress, November 21, at Harrisburg, that our present reserve potential is 10,000,000. He held that this is inadequate on the ground that "World War III would take an eventual army of between twelve and sixteen million to win it." On the ground of this alleged need he urged these educators to support the Army's plan for compulsory military training for all American boys.

Among the strongest opponents of peacetime conscription are leading educators and the principal educational associations. Dr. Francis J. Brown, executive secretary of the commission on higher education appointed by President Truman and during the war liaison official between the War Department and the institutions of higher education, attacked the Army's new proposals as "sheer hypocrisy." Speaking before the Eastern Association of College Deans and Advisors of Men in New York City November 30, Dr. Brown analyzed the proposed bill to show that what the Army aims at in the plan is not military efficiency "but the indoctrination of attitudes." To this end, he said, the Army seeks "the co-operation of established educational institutions in the indoctrination of the inevitableness of war."

The determination of the Administration to force through a universal peacetime military training law was emphasized by President Truman in the appointment of a "President's Advisory Commission on Universal Training." His remarks in connection with the announcement of the appointment of the commission made it clear that the task of the commission will not be to determine whether or not a universal peacetime conscription program shall be adopted, but to advise as to the needs and the type of law to be proposed. Its task is "to study the basic need as well as various plans for universal military training in relation to overall planning for the national security." In his extemporaneous remarks the President is quoted as saying, "I want the word military left out. The military part is incidental to what I have in mind." The fact is that the War Department's plan was announced months ago, that it is basically universal military conscription, that

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SOCIAL ACTION NEWS - LETTER

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DISARMAMENT IN THE UNITED NATIONS

The last days of the recent meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations brought two significant actions on the crucial issue of international disarmament. Since the initial days of this second part of the General Assembly's first session, when Russia precipitated the issue by two proposals, debate and compromise marked the entire time of the meeting. These two were, first, that the nations submit data on the number of troops in non-enemy territories, and second, that the nations agree to military disarmament.

In the course of the debate a number of significant informal agreements were reached, the most important being the acceptance by Russia of the principle of on the spot inspection by an international commission to determine whether agreements to disarm were being complied with. Another general agreement was that no veto can be allowed to curb the operation of any procedure agreed upon.

The formal agreements finally reached were far from conclusive but they do keep the process going looking forward both to complete publicity on troops and arms possessed by all nations and to simultaneous disarmament. The resolutions as adopted by the Assembly authorized the Security Council to draft disarmament controls and treaties, and also to draft an agreement on what information the nations are to make public on their troops and arms.

During the period of the debate statements were made by delegates, notably Sir Hartley Shawcross of Great Britain, that weapons much more destructive than the atomic bomb are now known to exist. The Associated Press also revealed that Senator Brien McMahon, chairman of the joint committee on atomic energy had told a closed session of Parliament members that the United States is now making bombs 600 times as powerful as the ones used on Japan.

During these weeks the formation of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists was announced. Professor Albert Einstein opened a campaign to raise \$1,000,000 with a nation-wide radio broadcast. This fund will be used in an educational effort based upon six propositions from the statement of purpose of the Committee:

"1. Atomic bombs can now be made cheaply and in large numbers. They will become more destructive.

"2 There is no military defense against atomic bombs, and none is to be expected.

"3. Other nations can discover our secret processes by themselves.

"4. Preparedness against atomic war is futile, and if attempted will ruin the structure of our social order.

"5. If war breaks out, atomic bombs will be used, and they will surely destroy our civilization.

"6. There is no solution to this problem except international control of atomic energy and, ultimately, the elimination of war."

EINSTEIN ISSUES ATOMIC APPEAL

Albert Einstein, noted physicist who had much to do with the discoveries which made possible the atomic bomb, has accepted the chairmanship of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, Inc., and has asked for \$1,000,000 to be raised by public subscription to enable his committee to educate Americans to "an understanding of the simple facts of atomic energy and its implications for society." His letter, addressed to prominent persons throughout the U.S., says,

"I write to you and other friends for help.

"Through the release of atomic energy, our generation has brought into the world the most revolutionary force since prehistoric man's discovery of fire. This basic power of the universe cannot be fitted into the outmoded concept of narrow nationalisms. For there is no secret and there is no defense; there is no possibility of control except through the aroused understanding and insistence of the peoples of the world.

"We scientists recognize our inescapable responsibility to carry to our fellow citizens an understanding of the simple facts of atomic energy and its implications for society. In this lies our only security and our only hope — we believe that an informed citizenry will act for life and not for death.

"We need \$1,000,000 for this great educational task. Sustained by faith in man's ability to control his destiny through the exercise of reason, we have pledged all our strength and our knowledge to this work. I do not hesitate to call upon you for help.

(Signed) A. Einstein"

In an interview with Michael Amrine printed in the *New York Times Magazine*, Dr. Einstein says, "Today the atomic bomb has profoundly altered the nature of the world as we know it, and the human race consequently finds itself in a new habitat to which it must adapt its thinking. In the light of new knowledge, a world authority and an eventual world state are not just desirable in the name of brotherhood, they are necessary for survival . . . Today we must abandon competition and secure cooperation. This must be the central fact in all our considerations of international affairs; otherwise we face certain disaster. Past thinking and methods did not prevent world wars. Future thinking must prevent wars. . . . Being an ingenuous people, Americans find it hard to believe there is no foreseeable defense against atomic bombs. But this is a basic fact. Scientists do not even know of any field which promises us any hope of adequate defense. The military-minded cling to old methods of thinking and one Army department has been surveying possibilities of going underground, and in wartime placing factories in places like Mammoth Cave. Others speak of dispersing our population into 'linear' or 'ribbon' cities.

"Reasonable men with these new facts to consider refuse to contemplate a future in which our culture would attempt to survive in ribbons or in underground tombs. Neither is there assurance in proposals to keep a hundred thousand men alert along the costs scanning the sky with radar. There is no radar defense against the V-2, and should a 'defense' be developed after years of research, it would not be humanly possible for any defense to be perfect. Should one rocket with an atomic warhead strike Minneapolis, that city would look almost exactly like Nagasaki. Rifle bullets kill men, but atomic bombs kill cities. A tank is a defense against a bullet but there is no defense in science against the weapon which can destroy civilization.

"Our defense is not in armaments, not in science, nor in going underground. Our defense is in law and order.

"Henceforth, every nation's foreign policy must be judged at every point by one consideration: does it lead us to a world of law and order or does it lead us backward toward anarchy and death? *I do not believe that we can prepare for war and at the same time prepare for a world community.* (Editor's italics) When humanity holds in its hand the weapon with which it can commit suicide, I believe to put more power into the gun is to increase the probability of disaster. . . . The war which began with Germany using weapons of unprecedented

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ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

"Words Twisted by Knaves." On December 23, Frank Edwards, news commentator of radio station WIBC, Indianapolis, revealed that five million pamphlets have been sent out by a New York sugar brokerage firm asserting that the U. S. is shipping sugar to Yugoslavia in the face of a shortage at home. The implication is that the U.S. is providing sugar to Yugoslavia through UNRRA, while ignoring the domestic shortage. Edwards reported that his investigation revealed several pertinent facts. First, the sugar being shipped to Yugoslavia is Cuban sugar allotted to that country by the World Sugar Board. Second, while it is being shipped from the U.S., it is not an export from the country, since it was sent here for processing before being re-shipped to Yugoslavia. Third, it is being transported by U. S. ships, but is not a U.S. product. Then why these five million pamphlets? Says Edwards, the brokerage firm wants to break U.S. control over sugar imports in order to profit from sugar futures. The Department of Agricultural on December 28 also blasted efforts of sugar interests to sabotage controls to get higher prices.

* * *

The Grand Jury Speaks Up. A federal grand jury sitting in Chicago, says A.P., on December 12, sent a letter to Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, urging the motion picture industry to take steps to reduce or eliminate drinking scenes in motion pictures. Asserting that they were "impressed with the large number of criminal cases in which intoxicating drink plays a large part," members of the grand jury declared that "multitudes of young people and children who attend the motion pictures are faced with the portrayal of drinking scenes in almost every picture," and this "exerts a tremendous influence in their accepting and adopting drinking habits which in many cases lead to crime." U. S. District Attorney J. Albert Woll said he was "greatly interested" in the jury's action and would send a copy of the letter to Attorney General Clark. "Something should be done about juvenile delinquency on a national scale," said Mr. Woll.

* * *

"You Can't Give Her the Moon." How the luxury trade looks to the average industrial worker was portrayed in the November 18, issue of *The CIO News* when that journal ran a full page picture of a worker's ill-clad wife and three barefoot children as background for a tear-section from a New York newspaper advertising mink coats ranging in price from \$1500 to \$10,000, with the catch-line, "You Can't Give Her the Moon, But You Can Give Her Russeks Design Studio Mink." Telling that half of all American families have incomes of less than \$2000 per year (47% earn less than that, according to the Federal Reserve Board), it would take 222 weeks at the current industrial wage of \$45 per week to buy a \$10,000 coat, even if nothing went for food, rent or income tax, Phil Murray's warning is repeated that sharply rising prices will inevitably lead to a drop in consumer demand, with the result that "the boom will go bust."

* * *

Who Gets What. The science of economics has been described as the process of determining who get what, how, why and when. The Federal Reserve Board has released statistics showing who gets what, but not how or why or when. According to this report the 1945 national income, *before taxes*, was distributed as follows: 47 per cent (14,100,000) of the nation's 30,000,000 families received less than \$2000 per year (\$38.43 per week); 38 per cent (11,400,000 families) earned between \$2000 and \$3999 (median income \$57.69 per week); 12 per cent (3,600,000 families) received from \$4000 to \$7499; while 3 per cent (900,000 families) had incomes of \$7500 or more. Put these figures alongside anticipated 1946 corporate profits of four times the 1936-1939 level (\$11,800,000,000 after taxes) and you will have the basic explanation of labor unrest. When 85 per cent of the families receive less than \$4000, out of which they have to pay income tax, social security, etc., before they get down to the practical necessities of bread, meat, clothing, medical care, and education, while corporate profits are pyramiding, you have all the makings of industrial trouble.

HOW MUCH DEMOCRACY IN POLL TAX STATES?

The low level to which democracy has fallen in poll tax states is shockingly revealed by the current investigations into Senator Bilbo's campaign for re-election and the facts unearthed by the investigation into his relations with war contractors employed to build government installations in Mississippi. Thanks to a series of nationwide broadcasts arranged by one of the major networks, the general public was let in on some of the hearings at Jackson and Meridian where the Bilbo campaign tactics were aired. Not even the efforts of Senator Ellender of Louisiana, chairman of the campaign investigating committee and therefore presumed to be impartial, to act as virtual attorney for Bilbo, could completely obscure the fact that to be a Negro in Mississippi is to be disfranchised and relegated to a position of political servitude. With complete frankness many witnesses told the committee that they had warned Negroes ("for their own good," of course) not to go to the polls or attempt to vote in the so-called "white man's primary," despite the ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court that Negro citizens have the right to participate in such elections. It was even predicted that Negroes would fail to appear before the Senate's committee. However, contrary to predictions, ninety-six Negroes, some of them veterans, showed up to testify to coercion running all the way from threats to beatings. In the face of such tactics only 1500 of Mississippi's 500,000 Negroes voted. Bilbo had to face his own oft-repeated campaign suggestion that "The best way to keep a nigger away from a white man's primary in Mississippi is to see him the night before."

Time (December 16) predicted that despite the sorry showing Bilbo would be seated. The Democrats need his vote. Bilbo himself, indifferent to the repugnance with which his name is held by many people, predicted that he would be seated, saying, "My name is Bilbo," evidently alluding to the fact that his name would be called early in the alphabetical list of Senators to be sworn in and thus before the newly elected Republican majority can control the Senate.

The whole sorry poll tax mess is highlighted by figures published in *Economic Outlook* (June 1946), showing the total electorate in poll tax states and the votes by which Senators were elected in the 1940 general election. (The 1946 figures are not yet available.)

		Total Electorate	Vote Received
Tenn.	Kenneth McKellar	1,703,000	295,000
N. C.	Josiah Bailey	1,925,000	230,000
Miss.	Theodore G. Bilbo	1,195,000	143,000
Ga.	Walter George	1,769,000	273,000
Tex.	Tom Connally	3,710,000	978,000
Ga.	Richard Russell	1,769,000	60,000
Ala.	John Bankhead (deceased)	1,555,000	69,000
Va.	Harry Flood Byrd	1,568,000	274,000

Yet these men, elected by a minority of voters in their respective states, have for years headed important Senate committees — posts which they will now have to relinquish since the Republicans control the new Congress. Bilbo has been chairman of the District of Columbia Committee, and virtually mayor of Washington. McKellar has been chairman of the Appropriations Committee, thus holding important power over governmental expenditures. Connally, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has been overshadowed by Vandenburg, Republican, a man of greater ability. Bailey, as chairman of the Commerce Committee, George, of the Post-War Economic Committee, and Byrd, of the all-powerful Rules Committee, have been in position to influence legislation on matters relating to the whole country. Yet each of them holds office by virtue of a system which denies representation to the overwhelming majority of the citizens of their respective states.

The situation in the House is no better. In the 1944 election, Congressman Manasco (Ala.) received only 22,000 of his district's 145,000 potential votes. Hatton Summers, of Texas, got only 27,000 votes from the 266,000 people in his district. Wood (Georgia), chairman of the former Dies Committee, represents a district of 126,000 people, only 26,000 of whom voted for him.

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NEW CONSCRIPTION BATTLE LOOMS [Cont. from page 1]

it is supported by influential members of President Truman's own official family who hope to secure its enactment as soon as Congress convenes. The appointment of a commission to study the matter at this late date just doesn't make sense.

The President's insistence that what he has in mind is the physical, mental and moral development of American youth moves far in the direction of regimented education for ends to be determined by the State. This is essentially the philosophy that was behind Hitler Youth. Nor have other members of the Administration been backward about their intentions. James E. Webb, who holds the powerful position of Director of the Budget, stated in a letter to Senator James E. Murray, chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor of the Senate, that the Administration will oppose any aid to universities and colleges for basic support, construction of facilities, and for scholarships, except as such aid to these institutions is "considered in relation to the enactments respecting military training." In other words, Mr. Webb is serving notice on college and university presidents that no funds will be available to them except as they support peacetime conscription. This also follows the familiar Hitler pattern. Mr. Webb further suggests that in view of the anticipated drive for economy in government, *priority would be given to compulsory military training over aid to education.*

In *Chemical and Engineering News* of August 25, organ of the American Chemical Society, Prof. Lloyd Reyerson of the University of Minnesota, calls both extension of Selective Service and universal military training "a dagger at the heart of the nation." Among other things, our policy of conscription, he says, has already "completely eliminated a generation of young scientists," upon whose research even military power depends.

It is expected that the bill, which is already in process of preparation, will be introduced on the first days of Congress and pressed by the Army, the American Legion, and by Administration leaders for immediate enactment, if possible. Thus it is hoped to "get the jump on" opponents of conscription and rush the law through before they can get their forces organized.

The Disciples of Christ have long been opposed to peacetime conscription. The International Convention at Columbus, Ohio, last August passed the following resolution by unanimous vote:

"Therefore, be it resolved, that this International Convention of Disciples of Christ reaffirms its opposition to conscription for military training or service in time of peace, and that we urge our members to make known their views on this subject to the President and to members of Congress."

It is expected that the fight against conscription will be led by the National Council Against Conscription. The NCAC was formed to represent many organizations and individuals opposed to peacetime conscription and its function is to consolidate their political opposition in Washington. It publishes *Conscription News*, which is regarded as the best single source of information concerning the issue. Address the National Council Against Conscription, 1013 18th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

HOW MUCH DEMOCRACY IN POLL TAX STATES [Cont. from page 3]

The poll tax as a prerequisite for voting is not only an undemocratic, un-American device for depriving the majority of representation, but it also discourages participation in government of even those who hold poll tax receipts, since it puts control in the hands of a small oligarchy which can easily control the machinery of elections. The situation which exists in our poll tax states is even less democratic than the system by which the Communist Party retains control in Russia.

CONTACT ESTABLISHED WITH POLISH BRETHREN

Dr. Jesse M. Bader, president of the World Convention of the Churches of Christ, reports that contacts have been re-established with our brethren in Poland and that relief supplies are now getting through to them, though not in sufficient quantity to meet their needs. Throughout the war K. J. Jaroshevich remained in this country as a representative of the Polish churches and as soon as Poland was liberated he began attempts to re-establish contacts. Through the World Council of Churches and C.A.R.E. it was learned that the group has established headquarters at Olsztyn (formerly Allenstein) and has organized the Samaritan Evangelical Relief Committee, with headquarters at 23 Warmijska Street. Arrangements have been made with Church World Service to allocate some of the relief supplies designated for Poland to this committee. C.A.R.E. will accept orders for \$10 food packages for delivery to the committee. Dr. Bader advises that arrangements also have been made to send shipments of used clothing, shoes, bedding, medicines and hospital supplies direct to the Polish churches. Such shipments should be marked "Evangelical Samaritan Relief Committee, 23 Warmyska Street, Alsztytn, Poland, care K. Jaroshevich, 118 East 28th Street, New York 16, N. Y." Arrangements have been made whereby consignments can be loaded on ship in New York for direct transportation to Danzig.

GENEROUS RESPONSE TO RELIEF APPEALS

To date more than 500 churches have notified the office of the Department of Social Welfare that they have participated in "Our Day of Sharing," November 10, by gathering, packing and shipping to Church World Service useable clothing, shoes, bedding, medicines and hospital supplies. First Christian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, sent 35 boxes of clothing to Church World Service Center, 1735 Vandeventer Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. The Wilson Boulevard Christian Church, Arlington, Virginia, Glendale Burton, Pastor, sent 3,500 pounds of clothing to Holland and 4000 pounds to the Church World Service Center at New Windsor, Maryland. In addition, the Arlington church has "adopted" two French children and also supports a 28 bed ward at a local hospital, providing all needs over and above medical care, and supplied Christmas needs for two local families, besides giving year-round care to a family of five. More than 300 French families will receive C.A.R.E. food packages sent by Churches of the Disciples of Christ. Requests are being received for names of additional families, not only of France, but also of other war-devastated areas.

EINSTEIN ISSUES ATOMIC APPEAL [Cont. from page 2]

frightfulness against women and children ended with the United States using a supreme weapon killing thousands at one blow. . . .

"Before the raid on Hiroshima, leading physicists urged the War Department not to use the bomb against defenseless women and children. The war could have been won without it. The decision was made in consideration of possible future loss of American lives — and now we have to consider possible loss in future bombings of *millions of lives*. The American decision may have been a fatal error, for men accustom themselves to thinking a weapon which was once used can be used again. . . . Our renunciation of this weapon as too terrible to use would have carried great weight in negotiations and made convincing our sincerity in asking other nations for a binding partnership to develop these newly unleashed powers for good. . . .

"Ignoring the realities of faith, goodwill and honesty in seeking a solution, we place too much faith in legalisms, treaties, and mechanisms. We must begin through the U.N. Atomic Energy Commission to work for binding agreement, but America's decision will not be made over a table in the United Nations. Our representatives in New York, in Paris, or in Moscow depend ultimately upon decisions made in the village square. To the village square we must carry the facts of atomic energy. From there must come America's voice. . . . Science has brought forth this danger, but the real problem is in the minds and hearts of men. We will not change the hearts of other men by mechanisms, but by changing *our* hearts and speaking bravely."